

insects, when a moth quite unexpectedly scurried into my left ear, working its way to the drum and causing instant and severe discomfort. I was driven to hospital and the physician on duty was eventually able to drown the moth in oil, but he could not remove the creature as a blood clot had formed. On 24th July, deaf in that ear, I visited a specialist who began treatment. Infection had complicated matters and it was over a week before the moth was completely extricated. Ever the would-be taxonomist, I tried to identify the moth from the remaining pieces, but these only indicated a small Noctuid. For some time I felt this to be a quite individual and ironic act of "divine retribution" for 25 years of murdering moths, until a similar (but much less spectacular) incident was reported in the newsletter of the Lepidopterists' Society. Following that note, other cases of "The Moth in the Ear" came to light. We who sow must also expect to reap. — Dr. R. S. WILKINSON, The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20002; The American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York 10024.

THE YEAR 1977. — Although 1977 was not a patch on 1976, some interesting species turned up. May 25th I paid a visit to the New Forest where two *Cleora cinctaria* D. & S. (Ringed Carpet) and two *Dyscia fagaria* Thunb. (Grey Scalped Bar) appeared at m.v. June 4th I received a phone call from the Head Forester telling me that for the past few days two *Hemaris fuciformis* L. (Broad-bordered Bee-hawk) had arrived about 5.30 p.m. to feed on a row of wallflowers. On June 22nd I went to the neighbouring village of Sparsholt where I found *Parasemia plantaginis* L. (Wood Tiger) flying in the sun and *Adscita statures* L. (Forester) fairly common. Back in the New Forest in early July the moths which came my way were *Diacrisia sannio* L. (Clouded Buff), *Hyloicus pinastri* L. (Pine Hawk), *Apoda avellana* L. (Festoon), *Lobophora halterata* Hufn. (Seraphim) and nine larvae of the Broad-bordered Bee-hawk, of which seven reached the pupal stage. I was in the New Forest again in early September and saw two *Mormo maura* L. (Old Lady) and a number of *Paradiarsia glareosa* Esp. (Autumnal Rustic), also one *Scopula marginepunctata* Goeze (Mullein Wave).

Further afield at Swanage on September 18th, *Leucochlaena oditis* Hbn. (Beautiful Gothic), *Eumichtis lichenea* Hbn. (Feathered Ranunculus) and two *Mythimna albipuncta* D. & S. (White-point) visited my m.v. September 23rd and 24th in Portland, *E. lichenea*, *L. oditis*, *Aporophyla australis* Boisd. (Feathered Brindle) and *Aspitates ochrearia* Rossi were common, whilst one *Idaea seriata* Schrank (Small Dusty Wave) put in an appearance; returning to the same locality in mid-October there were two *Polymixis flavicincta* D. & S. (Large Ranunculus), five *Mythimna l-album* L. and four *Larentia clavaria* Haw. (Mallow).

In the garden at Crawley, Hants. this year, I had *Lithophane semibrunnea* Haw (Tawny Pinion), *Odontosia carmelita*

Esp. (Scarce Prominent), *Thumata senex* Hbn. (Round-winged Muslin), *Eulithis prunata* L. (Phoenix), *E. testata* L. (Chevron), *Perizoma bifaciata* Haw. (Barred Rivulet), *Cyclophora porata* L. (False Mocha), *Cerapteryx graminis* L. (Antler), *Nycteola revayana* Scop. (Oak Nycteoline), *Agrochola helvola* L. (Flounced Chestnut), *Orthonana obstipata* F. (Gem), *Chloroclysta siterata* Hufn. (Red-green Carpet), *Chesias legatella* D. & S. (Streak), *Pyralis farinalis* L., *Choristoneura habentrietella* Müller, *Phycita roborella* D. & S., *Aphomia sociella* L., *Agapeta zoegana* L. and *Galleria mellonella* L. to name but a few. — R. BELL, Northwood Lodge, Northwood Park, Sparsholt, near Winchester, Hants.

POLYDRUSUS SERICEUS (SCHALLER) (COL.: CURCULIONIDAE): AN ADDITIONAL NOTE. — Mr. David Appleton tells me (*in litt.*) that *Polydrusus sericeus* (Schaller) abounded in Harewood Forest (North Hampshire) in 1974, mostly on Birch, and that Mr. Peter Hodge and Mr. Richard Jones found it in "swarms" there in late May 1977. Messrs. Hodge and Jones have also found it at Leckford in the same vice-county. Mr. Appleton also found the weevil in plenty at Crab and West Woods, Winchester (South Hampshire) in 1976 and 1977 on Birch, Aspen and other trees. In 1977 specimens in good condition were seen in West Wood as late as August. It is perhaps not very surprising that Forbes' record should have been confirmed over 100 years later. — M. G. MORRIS, Orchard House, 7 Clarence Road, Dorchester, Dorset.

BLEPHARITA SOLIERI (BOISDUVAL) (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE): A SPECIES NEW TO THE BRITISH LIST. — An example of this moth was in my m.v. light trap here on the evening of 29th August, 1976. I was of the opinion that the specimen was nothing more than an unusual *Luperina testacea* D. & S. (Flounced Rustic). However, I set it, and on visiting Mr. Pelham-Clinton at the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh to have some micros identified, he immediately saw it was something extraordinary and kindly determined it for me. The specimen is now in the Royal Scottish Museum. — ANDREW BUCKHAM, Forester's Cottage, Wells, Denholm, Roxburghshire, Scotland. [Kirby (*Butterflies and Moths of Europe*) states that *solieri* is common in South Europe, North Africa and West Asia in September, adding that the larva feeds on low plants and is very injurious in kitchen gardens. — Editor]

HELICOVERPA ARMIGERA HBN., MYTHIMNA VITELLINA HBN. AND OTHER MIGRANTS IN NORTH-EAST SURREY. — On 22nd October, 1977 I was pleased to find at my m.v. trap at Addiscombe a ♂ *H. armigera* (Scarce Bordered Straw), in good condition. It was apparent that a notable migration was occurring at this time, a considerable number of *Autographa gamma* L. and *Phlogophora meticulosa* L. being observed here and elsewhere in north-east Surrey.

On 15th October, 1977 a fine ♂ *M. vitellina* Hbn. (Delicate) was taken by Mr. Leslie Evans at m.v.l. in Nower Wood, near Mickleham, Surrey. This was during a survey of the